

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 1 adding the symbol "'" to elements 30, 31, 32, 40, 41 and 42 on the left-hand side of the figure to distinguish these elements from those on the right-hand side of the figure.

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification is amended consistent with the below drawing changes. No new matter is added.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 1 adding the symbol "'" to elements 30, 31, 32, 40, 41 and 42 on the left-hand side of the figure to distinguish these elements from those on the right-hand side of the figure. Although the terminology used in the specification is the same, nevertheless, the above-noted elements are directed to a different embodiment as disclosed on page 4, line 21 to page 5, line 4. The above change is the only change and is believed not to introduce new matter.

Claims 1 and 4-6 were previously pending in the application. Claim 5 is cancelled; leaving claims 1, 4 and 6 for consideration.

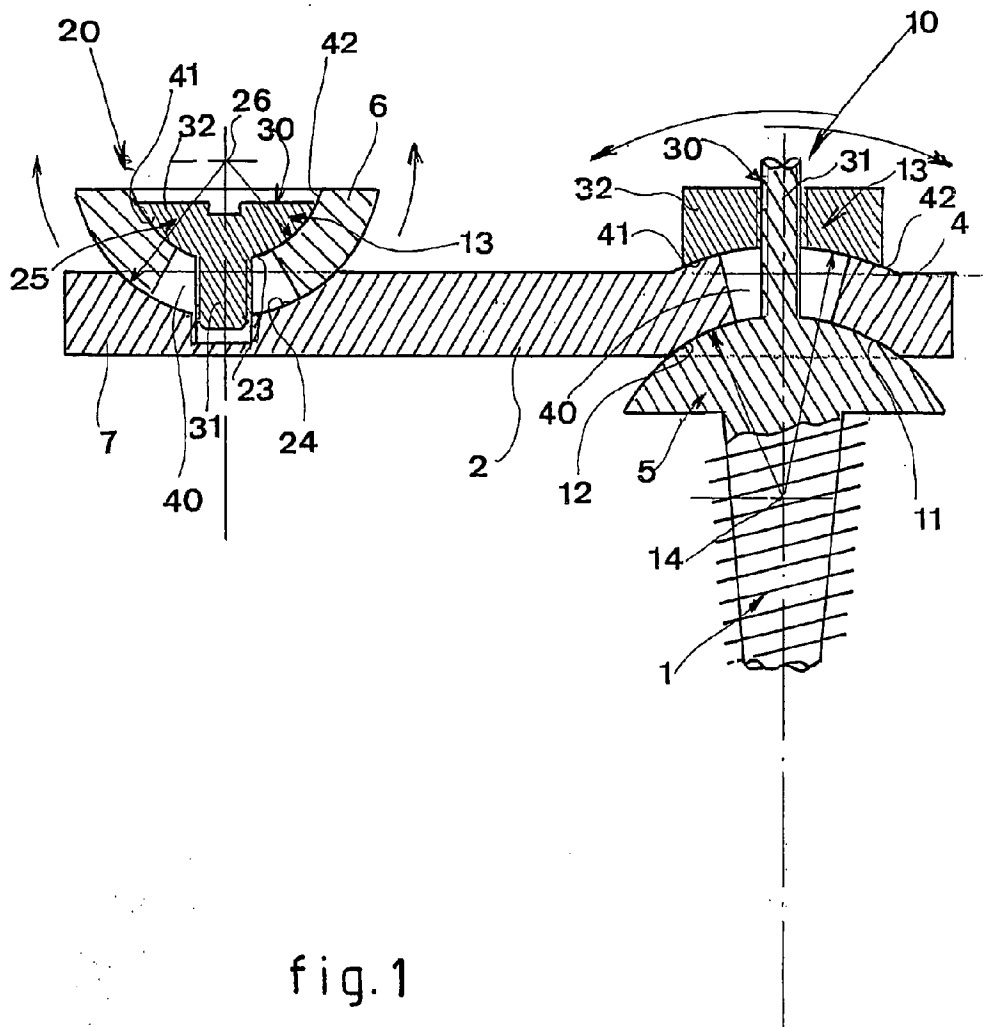
The claims are amended to conform to U.S. practice to address the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by MORRISON 5,569,247.

Claim 1 recites that the screwing head is screwed onto said threaded shank and that faces of the screwing head and of a

hemispherical portion that comes into contact with the screwing head are of complementary hemispherical shapes.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present application, reproduced below shows screwing head 32 is screwed onto said threaded shank 31. Faces of the screwing head 32 (face 41) and of a hemispherical portion (unnumbered having face 42) that comes into contact with the screwing head are of complementary hemispherical shapes.



MORRISON never discloses a screwing head screwed onto a threaded shank. Rather, head 46 is part of shank 48, which in turn is screwed into proximal end 26 of fixed member 22.

Moreover, MORRISON only discloses that the proximal portion 26 of fixed member 22 is hemispherical with rotating member 12 also being hemispherical to form a sphere when joined (see column 3, lines 25-31).

However, the screw head 46 never include a hemispherical portion. Rather, column 4, lines 2-3 disclose a conical shaped head. Similarly, the opening 45 into which screw 48 screws is conical (see column 3, lines 60-62). Thus, neither screw 46 nor opening 45 could be considered a hemispherical shape that meets claim 1.

Claims 4 and 6 are believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Further, claim 4 recites that the faces of the screwing head and of the hemispherical portion that comes into contact with the screwing head are respectively concave and convex.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present application, reproduced above, shows face 41 of the screwing head 32 on the right-hand side of the figure and face 42 of the hemispherical portion that comes into contact with the screwing head 32 are respectively concave and convex.

MORRISON does not disclose this.

Rather, all faces of MORRISON such as lug 68 and opening 42 are concave. MORRISON never discloses an element that meets the recited convex hemispherical portion.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

The appendix includes the following item:

-a replacement drawing for Figure 1